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PRESS RELEASE

December 29, 2015

FORMER HEBRON POLICE OFFICER RYSZARD KOPACZ SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS FOR AGGRAVATED POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARMS AND OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Louis A. Bianchi, McHenry County State's Attorney, announces that Ryszard Kopacz, 32, of Wonder Lake was sentenced to four years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for aggravated possession of stolen firearms and official misconduct.

The defendant was convicted of aggravated possession of stolen firearms after a bench trial on August 25, 2015. The evidence presented at trial showed that the defendant was formerly a police Sergeant with the village of Hebron. The defendant was terminated from the department for budgetary reasons. Subsequent to his termination the Illinois State Police executed a search warrant on his home. Inside they discovered three firearms that were stolen from the Hebron Police Department's evidence vault. The defendant was interviewed by Special Agent Hogberg of the F.B.I. and he admitted to stealing the firearms.

The defendant pled guilty to official misconduct on December 28, 2015 just prior to the start of his sentencing hearing. At the sentencing hearing, the evidence presented showed that the defendant was hired by the Richmond Police Department shortly after his termination from Hebron. The defendant was terminated for failure to report for duty. After his termination Richmond Police Chief Cetrangolo was contacted by several elderly members of the community who advised that officer Kopacz had come to their home and complained of a toothache and asked them for pain medication. The citizens were alarmed by the behavior and concerned for their safety. This lead to an investigation into Kopacz by the F.B.I., which resulted in Special Agent Hogberg learning from a confidential informant that Kopacz had been delivering marijuana while on duty and in uniform while working for the Hebron Police Department. Hogberg interviewed the defendant and he admitted that he delivered marijuana while he was working as a Hebron Police Officer.

This case was prosecuted by Michael Combs and Kyle Bruett of the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office. This matter was investigated by the Richmond Police Department, the Illinois State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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